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# INFORMATION REPORT

## REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 29 January 1953

SUBJECT      Developments in the Buero fuer Wirtschaftsfragen

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1. In August 1952, a large scale revision of vehicle supply orders for 1952 was proposed in the planning department of the Buero fuer Wirtschaftsfragen. Among the new orders was one for the immediate supply of 300 passenger cars, type BMW.
2. A plan was also drawn up for the supply of vehicles to airfields in 1952 and 1953. The plan showed that certain special trucks for airfields would be imported from Russia.
3. The plans for supplies to all the BfW's customers were on hand in the planning department of Hauptabteilung in August and ready for distribution to operational departments in September 1952.
4. At a Party conference of the BfW on 15 August 1952, Director Berndt Weinberger said that the BfW's total commitments involved 400,000,000 DM, and, if building construction were included, 800,000,000.
5. On 8 August 1952 and 22 August 1952, Weinberger held production conferences at the VEB IFA Horch works, Zwickau, and Iowa Werke, Werdau, respectively.
6. The conferences showed that the BfW's orders were delayed by shortages of cast steel (Stahlguss) and forging capacity (Schmiedekapazitaet). In Werdau it was estimated that only 500 gear boxes (33% of the planned figure) would be completed by the end of 1952. Crankshaft production was also in danger because of the failure of a heavy hammer in Wildau.<sup>1</sup> Attempts were being made to procure replacement for the latter's broken steel band (Stahlband) [redacted] 50X1-H  
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7. Shortages of material for steel screws (Stahlschrauben) and seamless pipes (nahtlose Rohre) for cordon shafts (Gelenkwellen) were also causing severe difficulties. Brass and lead used in vehicle production were also in very

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short supply.

1.  Comment: Possibly VVB Lwa headquarters at Wildau. 50X1-HUM

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